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BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1966

1966

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR H. WERBA

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. CALDWELL

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

J. G. REESON

F.I.A.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.B.I., C.S.I.B., M.R.S.H.

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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	£216,099
Value of Penny Rate	£920
Number of inhabited houses (approx.) ...	1,782
Population	5,000

ANNUAL REPORT

**of the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Saint Ives
(Hunts) for the year ended 31st December, 1966.**

To :-

Mr. Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of
Saint Ives (Hunts).

Your Worship and Members of the Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1966.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION — The steady gradual rise in the population which has occurred during the past few years continued during the year and the figure has now reached the 5,000 mark.

BIRTH RATE — Both the crude and the corrected birth rate show a slight upward trend this year as compared with 1965 and the figure continues to remain well above the national average.

DEATHS — A fractional rise in the death rate is noticed this year and the figure continues to lie just above the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

INFANT MORTALITY — Four infants died during the year before reaching the age of 12 months. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 32.5 per 1,000 live births which is almost twice the national average.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE — The increase in the incidence of Notifiable Infectious Disease which occurred during 1966 was due mainly to an outbreak of measles which began during the last quarter of the year and was still spreading when the year came to an end.

TYPHOID FEVER — At the end of April information was received from the Public Health Laboratory in Cambridge that an Italian child normally resident in St. Ives was at that time in the Children's Ward of Addenbrooke's Hospital suffering from Typhoid Fever. Steps were immediately taken to interview the contacts of

which there were at least 58 mainly Italians. From investigation it was established that in the affected household there were three positive excretors of typhoid bacillus — the grandmother, a ten year old boy and a two and a half year old girl, all of whom had been symptomless.

The family was put in virtual quarantine although the father was allowed to continue work as this did not seem to endanger public safety in any way. All contacts were found to be free of infection and no positive findings were obtained outside the family household. The living conditions of the affected family were fortunately very good indeed and the hygiene standards maintained were well above average. Co-operation with the family was always good and instructions given were always carried out exceedingly well.

In due course the patient made a good recovery and became free of infection as did the other members of the household except the grandmother who continued to excrete the responsible organism and who appeared to be the originator of the incident.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

HOUSING — Forty-nine dwellings referred to in last year's report were completed during the year thus reducing the number of sub-standard properties occupied in the town.

Plans for aged persons' dwellings were in an advanced stage by the end of the year and it is anticipated that construction of these properties will be commenced in 1967. In addition plans were finalised for a further twenty-four houses for general housing needs and their construction will be undertaken next year.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES — For some years now the district councils within the catchment area of the Huntingdon County Hospital have been increasingly concerned by the inadequate facilities especially in-patient accommodation at the hospital and also at the Primrose Lane Maternity Unit.

It is a pleasing feature to learn that fourteen additional beds are to be provided at Primrose Lane making a total of twenty-four thus making it possible for suitable cases to have a longer stay in hospital.

As regards the Huntingdon County Hospital, however, further meetings of representatives of district councils and the County Council with those of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board are to be held at an early date with a

view to improving the facilities and accommodation at the hospital to cope with the needs of the rapidly increasing population of the area.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE — The whole main drainage scheme for this town was completed and in operation during the year. Very few houses in the town are now without main drainage and it is hoped that provision will be made for these at a later date. This scheme does allow for development of both an industrial and residential nature and solves many of the problems which previously confronted the Council.

REFUSE — This is dealt with by arrangement with the neighbouring Rural District Council and at present no difficulty exists so far as we are concerned.

ABATTOIR — Extensions to deal with the increased demands were commenced in November and it is anticipated that they should be completed by mid 1967.

The abattoir serves an extensive area surrounding the town and these extensions now in course of construction will enable us to deal with an increased throughput.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Reeson and all other members of the Department's staff for the assistance they have given me and for all the work they have done during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CALDWELL

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1966

Estimated mid-year population ... 5,000

LIVE BIRTHS

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	70	46	116
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	74	50	124
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population ...			24.8
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor			
(.88) ... ..	...	...	21.8
Birth rate per 1,000 population			
(England and Wales) ...	...	...	17.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live			
and still births ... ..	...	...	8.0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live			
and still births (England and Wales) ...			15.4

DEATHS

	26	26	52
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population ...			10.4
Death rate corrected by comparability factor			
(1.19) ... ..	...	...	12.4
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			
(England and Wales) ...	...	...	11.7

INFANT MORTALITY — Deaths of Infants under 1 year

Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Infant mortality rate			
(Deaths of infants under 1 year			
per 1,000 live births) ... ..	...	...	32.3
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) ...			19.0

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 4 weeks	1	2	3
4 weeks and under 1 year	1	—	1
1 year and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 and under 15 years	1	—	1
15 and under 25 years	—	—	—
25 and under 35 years	—	—	—
35 and under 45 years	1	1	2
45 and under 55 years	1	3	4
55 and under 65 years	4	—	4
65 and under 75 years	4	6	10
75 years and over	13	14	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	26	26	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the Borough over the past 5 years :-

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Population	4,320	4,480	4,700	4,850	5,000
BIRTHS					
Total live births	113	122	123	114	124
Crude birth rate	26.2	27.2	26.2	23.5	24.8
Area comparability factor	.94	.93	.93	.88	.88
Corrected birth rate	24.6	25.3	24.3	20.7	21.8
Birth rate (England and Wales)	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1	17.7
DEATHS					
Total deaths	40	71	35	46	52
Crude death rate	9.3	15.8	7.4	9.5	10.4
Area comparability factor	1.04	1.06	1.06	1.23	1.19
Corrected death rate	9.6	16.8	7.9	11.7	12.4
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE **DURING 1966**

					<i>Total cases notified</i>
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	9
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	69
Acute pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—
Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—
Infective hepatitis	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	1
				Total	80

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

<i>List No.</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
20.	Other heart disease	7	5
23.	Pneumonia	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
34.	All other accidents	1	—
35.	Suicide	1	—
Total all causes		26	26

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register on 31st December, 1966 ... 19
Pulmonary ... 18 Non-pulmonary ... 1

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				0	I	0	0	0	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:-

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge (Tel. Cambridge 55526).

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tenison Road, Cambridge (Tel. Cambridge 52097).

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 3348).

(c) HOME NURSING

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

(i) The following services were provided by the Huntingdon and Peterborough County Council:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday and 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month, 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto. Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10-12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister), 10-12 noon.	Health Clinic Nursery Road Huntingdon Health Clinic, Ramsey Road, St. Ives.

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service :-

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Obstetrical, Paediatric, Gynaecological and dental out-patient clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES

FEVER — Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment were admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough and Ely.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

MATERNITY CASES were admitted to Maternity Unit, Primrose Lane, Huntingdon and Maternity Hospital, Mill Road, Cambridge.

Clinics run by the Family Planning Association are held at the Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon every Wednesday evening 7 — 8 p.m. and at the Health Clinic, Almond Road, St. Neots every Tuesday 7 — 8 p.m.

REPORT OF

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. WATER SUPPLIES.

The situation with regard to both quantity and quality has been very satisfactory, and no complaints have been received of any shortage.

The Cambridge Water Company is consulted whenever plans are known for future development so that it can prepare its plans well in advance and there will be no possibility of development being held up on this score.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The whole of the Scheme was completed and in operation during the year.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Works were carried out on one watercourse during the year.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection has been carried out in an extremely satisfactory manner.

The Council has investigated the question of back door collection, but cannot implement this at present.

5. SWIMMING POOLS.

The provision of a public Swimming Pool has had to be postponed for the time being owing to the financial difficulties.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No infringements were found during the year.

7. CARAVANS.

The Caravan Site has been well maintained and run with a resident Warden. Works have commenced on the extension of this site to accommodate a further 50 vans.

The vans are of good quality, many having bathrooms incorporated in them.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints were received of nuisances resulting from the burning of cars, and action was taken to abate this problem.

9. BED BUGS.

No reports of infestation by bed bugs were received, and no premises were found to be infested.

10. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Properties have been inspected during the year as a result of complaints. All Council properties have been treated and cleared. Private residents were supplied with rat poison to deal with their small infestations.

11. PETROLEUM ACTS.

The number of licences issued during the year was as follows:-

Over 1,000 gallons	2
500 — 1,000	8
Under 500	10

12. ABATTOIR.

The throughput at the Abattoir again showed a marked increase especially in the latter months of the year when a large wholesale firm asked if the Council was prepared to slaughter for them. Plans are well advanced to carry out alterations to the existing Abattoir and add large extensions. These extensions will be completed and fully operational by mid 1967.

13. NOISE ABATEMENT.

Two complaints were made during the year, but no formal action was taken, the firms having abated the nuisance upon receiving informal letters.

14. DANGEROUS BUILDING.

One house considered to be dangerous was demolished after informal action.

15. TYPHOID.

276 specimens of faeces were collected by the Department during an outbreak of typhoid.

INSPECTIONS UNDER FACTORIES ACTS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	11	24	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	39	54	Nil	Nil
Total	50	78	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	I	I	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	I	I	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) ABATTOIR PARTICULARS

	Beast	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1962	885	2	1,500	3,157	5,544
1963	945	11	1,194	3,032	5,182
1964	1,143	80	7,952	4,874	14,049
1965	1,428	98	13,528	5,558	20,612
1966	2,321	115	11,805	7,076	21,317

MEAT CONDEMNED AT ABATTOIR

	Beef lbs.	Veal lbs.	Mutton lbs.	Pork lbs.	Total lbs.
1962	3,547	—	—	2,650	6,197
1963	4,246	—	—	2,001	6,247
1964	3,034	—	2,272½	3,565	8,871½
1965	4,825	104	1,805	4,290	11,024
1966	10,725	46	2,227	10,703	23,701

MEAT AND ABATTOIR

The following table shows the number of animals killed, carcasses and offal inspected and condemned:-

			Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	..	..	2321	115	11805	7076
Number inspected	..	..	2321	115	11805	7076

(All diseases except tuberculosis):—

Whole carcasses condemned ..			1	1	29	37
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..			828	—	292	642
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis			35.6	.86	2.71	9.49

(Tuberculosis only):—

Whole carcasses condemned ..			—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..			—	—	—	95
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis			—	—	—	1.34

Cysticercosis:—

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..			2	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..			2	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned			—	—	—	—

(b) POULTRY INSPECTION

Regular inspections were made at the local processing Station, and during the year 5,137 carcasses were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

This Station has now undertaken the cooking of chickens.

(c) FOOD CONDEMNED IN SHOPS

Cod Fillets	12 lbs.		
Potatoes	1 ton	18 cwt.	
Luncheon Meat	5 st.	10 lbs.	
Corned Beef	6 st.	4 lbs.	
Cooked Ham	5 st.	0 lbs.	6 ozs.
Frozen Lamb	3 st.	5 lbs.	10½ ozs.
Frozen Beef	1 st.	7 lbs.	
Apricots	2 st.	2 lbs.	
Pineapples	9 st.	0 lbs.	8 ozs.
Beans		5 lbs.	12 ozs.
Grapefruit	2 st.	6 lbs.	7 ozs.
Pineapple Juice	1 st.	6 lbs.	3 ozs.
Mixed Vegetables		8 lbs.	
Bulgarian Tomatoes		13 lbs.	
Frozen Food	603	packets	
Garden Peas	7	„	
Sliced Beans	2	„	
Fish Fingers	16	„	
Haddock Fillets	6	„	
Cod Fillets	4	„	
Ice Cream	2	gallons	

(d) LIQUID EGG

The process of breaking out egg, pasteurising and canning continued during the year.

(e) MILK

Samples of milk taken during course of delivery to the consumer were found to be satisfactory.

(f) ICE CREAM

Number on Register	...	...	11
Number of Inspections	...	...	24
All samples taken were Grade I.			

(g) BAKEHOUSES

The only bakehouse in the Borough was closed during the year.

(h) INVESTIGATIONS

Following complaints, a prosecution was taken against one retailer with the following results:-

Milk bottle containing limestone, fined £15/15/0 and costs.

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES

The number of new houses erected during the year was as follows:-

Council	...	...	...	49
Private	...	...	...	126

OVERCROWDING

No cases of overcrowding were reported during the year.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Number reported to be unfit for habitation	3
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed	...
Number of houses unfit where demolition orders were made	...

GRANTS

2 Applications were made for Standard Grants and 5 for Discretionary Grants, for the improvement of houses all of which were approved.

J. G. REESON

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

